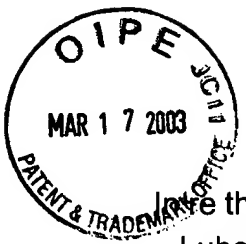


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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of
Lubock et al.

For: **DILATION DEVICES AND
METHODS FOR REMOVING
TISSUE SPECIMENS**

Serial No.: 09/916,937

Filed: July 27, 2001

Docket No.: 9619.1250

) Examiner: C. A. Marmor II
)
) Group Art Unit: 3736
)
) Customer No.: 23422
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**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF
SPECIES REQUIREMENTS**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited in the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage addressed to Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington D.C. 20231, on 3/14/03, in San Francisco, CA.

By: [Signature]

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

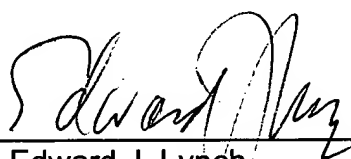
In the Office Action mailed February 25, 2003, in the above-referenced application, the Examiner put forth an election requirement between the following species of the claimed invention:

- a. Species I directed to Figures 1A-1D, 3A and 3B.
- b. Species II directed to Figures 2A-2G and 4A-4C.
- c. Species III directed to Figures 5A-6B.
- d. Species IV directed to Figures 7A-7B.
- e. Species V directed to Figure 8A.
- f. Species VI directed to Figure 8B.
- g. Species VII directed to Figure 8C.

In response to this election requirement, applicants hereby elect the prosecute species I shown in Figs. 1A-1D, 3A and 3B. Claims 1-4, 18, 19, 20, 27, 31 and 40 read on the elected species.

Applicants submit that claims 1-44 are directed to patentable subject matter and respectfully request examination on the merits and an early allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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Registration No. 24,422
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